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Rec'd: MARCH 17, 1960
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EXDIS

FROM [redacted]

TO: Secretary of State DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NO: 1792, MARCH 17, 5 PM

REF TELECON [redacted]

[redacted] AT MY REQUEST 5 PM YESTERDAY. ASKED WHETHER FONOFF AWARE CIRCULAR TO ALL DIPLOMATIC CORPS ISSUED BY CUBAN AMB ON MARCH 11 (RECEIVED BY US LATE MARCH 15). [redacted] HAD NOT SEEN IT. AFTER READING COPY WHICH I SHOWED HIM, HE ASKED WHETHER I HAD TRANSCRIPT SEC'S REMARKS TO PATTERSON. I GAVE HIM USIS PRESS RELEASE CONTAINING THEM.

AFTER READING TRANSCRIPT CAREFULLY HE SAID SEC'S REMARKS COULD BY NO STRETCH OF IMAGINATION BE CONSIDERED INSULTING; ON CONTRARY CUBAN CHARGE WE ENGINEERED EXPLOSION ON FRENCH SHIP WAS INSULTING ADDED CIRCULAR OF THIS CHARACTER WAS IMPROPER USE OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICE AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CUBAN AMB IN AND TELL HIM SO. AT HIS REQUEST, I LEFT CIRCULAR AND TRANSCRIPT WITH HIM. HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE ME FONOFF REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WAS (1) ACTING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, (2) BRINGING CIRCULAR TO ATTENTION FONOFF, (3) HOPING TO OBTAIN REACTION OF FONOFF AND (4) NOT REGISTERING "OFFICIAL PROTEST." I ALSO SAID EMBASSY WOULD TAKE ABOVE LINE IF QUERIED BY PRESS AND ADD THAT SINCE MATTER CONCERNED CUBAN-U.S. RELATIONS U.S. OFFICIAL COMMENT SHOULD COME FROM WASHINGTON.

DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION [redacted] SAID SOME OF EMERGING NEW COUNTRIES AND YOUNG GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS CASTRO'S ARE ENGAGING IN ACTIONS IN DIPLOMATIC FIELD STRANGE TO ESTABLISHED PRACTICE. I THOUGHT SOME WERE MERELY ATTRIBUTABLE IGNORANCE AND/OR BRASHNESS BUT OTHERS DELIBERATE AND SOME INDUCED BY COMMUNISTS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED CONAKRY EMBTEL 10:

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